

9 May 1952

To: SR/NC
From: SR/C 2

Subject: Contacts in New York City on 3 and 4 May 1952

1. As soon as the undersigned arrived in New York City at 1940, after having procured a hotel room, he went to lower east side - 7th Street, to be more precise - in order to see what, if anything, the Ukrainians were doing. Walking down E. 7th Street, between 2nd and 3rd Avenues, seemed rather strange since the street and sidewalks were filled with individuals all speaking Ukrainian. They were predominantly young men, although there were numbers of young women also. It should be noted that at the middle of the block, between 2nd and 3rd Avenues on 7th Street, there is a Ukrainian Catholic Church, St. George's. Perhaps there were some sort of services going on, or possibly these people were attending the Ukrainian Center housed next to the church. There must have been over 100 young people between 20 and 30 years old who would be good current-operations material. It would appear, however, that most of these young people are oriented on ZChOUN ideology or are even members of the ZChOUN. That being the case, if anyone of them were recruited there is little doubt that BANDERA would learn about it in a very short period of time. For that reason, at the present time it would not be advisable to recruit in this particular area nor from the Greek Catholic ranks. He will probably not be able to do this until such a time that there is an agreement between ZPUHVR and ZChOUN.

2. The undersigned headed for the Ukrainian Bookstore "Howe'l'a" almost directly across the street from the church. Here he hoped to look over the stock of books and perhaps pick up some useful materials, and he did to the tune of \$17.50. This, however, was a good investment for two reasons: First because of the background material purchased, and secondly, because he met up with the owner of the bookstore, one, Dr. Mykola SYDOR, PH. D. It seemed that the bookshop was deserted so that the undersigned was able to enter into a conversation with the owner. In the conversation the undersigned mentioned that he was a teacher of history (in Ukrainian it sounds more pompous because the high-sounding title, "Professor" is used). SYDOR became immediately interested for he would like to see more Americans learn something about the Ukrainian problem. It is apparent that SYDOR is well versed in Ukrainian politics, at least, insofar as the CUP is concerned.

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During the conversation he revealed:

a. The MELNIK/BANDERA split in OUN occurred because of the fact that BANDERA and his supporters, who were, of course, during the period 1938 and 1941 in the Homeland (either in jail or out) wanted to have MELNIK, who had been in the emigration from the time that KONOVALETS was killed, investigate the death of KONOVALETS. The BANDERA group believed that BUREANOVSKI, who was supposed to have been serving as KONOVALETS' bodyguard, had not performed his duty since he had not been in Rotterdam during the time that KONOVALETS was assassinated. This was the issue that BANDERA wanted cleared up but MELNIK procrastinated and eventually it got to a point where the actual split occurred. The above information seems to be quite logical, although it does not present the complete picture. It is, however, an addition to the information which we already possess.

b. It will be recalled that BANDERA had joined the UNRada in 1948 and after a few months in this organization he removed his representation. The exact reasons for his withdrawal were never clear to this office but the following information was given by Dr. SIDOR and it seems fairly logical:

(1) UNR representation was based on parity, but, in fact, BANDERA's group was the strongest of all and BANDERA did not feel that the other less important organizations should have parity with his own organization.

(2) ZCHOUR insisted that the UNRada cancel the so-called Warsaw Treaty of 1920. It will be recalled that when Simon PETLURA agreed on this treaty with PILSUDSKI, he gave up the western oblasts to Poland in return for PILSUDSKI's support against the Bolsheviks. That treaty, of course, is technically in effect at this time. (Naturally, this is de jure and not de facto). Since the leaders of the UNRada were the leaders of the PETLURA Republic they were, therefore, the very people who concluded this treaty. BANDERA, then, insisted that they rescind this treaty by a formal note to the LONDON-POLISH government. It appears that UNR procrastinated and said that since this treaty was concluded such a long time ago it was not de facto in effect; therefore, there was no necessity of sending this note of abrogation to the Polish government-in-exile. ZCHOUR, however, put the matter in the hands of some jurists who considered the question and came up with the verdict that in actuality, this treaty had de jure effect. Since the UNR would not

recognize this decision this was another reason for the BANDERA withdrawal.

(3) Another demand that ZCHOUN put on the UNR was the recognition of UNVR as the supreme council in the homeland and that the UNR's bailiwick would be the supreme representation in the emigration. This, however, UNR did not accept.

The undersigned cannot vouch that the above is gospel truth but it does seem to be a reasonable and fairly complete analysis of the BANDERA/UNR split.

c. According to SYDOR, those in the emigration who are interested realize the exact relationship between the UNR in the homeland and the UNVR, as also the projection of this very same relationship to the ZPUHVR and ZCHOUN relations in the emigration. It is also evident that the emigration is aware of the fact that LEBED is the Secretary General of the UNVR and that he is "directing" courier contact with the "inside". It is also apparently known that the UNVR upheld the ZPUHVR in the ZPUHVR-ZCHOUN differences. It would appear that the emigration does not know the whereabouts of LEBED but believes him to be in Washington.

d. SYDOR is a man seemingly in his late 30's or early 40's, a revolutionary, and an ex-member of the UPA. What endeared the undersigned to him was the fact that the undersigned bought a book called From the Star to Crimea (a story of one of the Pokhidni Grupyi) which, by good chance, happened to be written by SYDOR, a Commander of one of these detachments. SYDOR, realizing "the good taste" of the undersigned, became warmed up to the subject and talked very freely - for three hours, to be exact.

e. There is another book that Dr. SYDOR is in the process of writing, this time in English. He became so friendly with the undersigned that he begged that the undersigned proof-read and correct this book before publication, which we shall gladly do, and photostat it in the process. Suffice it to say that SYDOR and the undersigned parted "bosom buddies".

3. The following day, Sunday, the undersigned decided to see what the eastern Ukrainians had to offer in agent potential so he went to the Orthodox Church on 14th Street for services. This was rather disappointing since there were very very few young people, although the fairly large church was packed full. Those of the young men who were there appeared to be married, since they had come with women and children. This is not to say that there are no agent-type individuals in New York because it may have happened that they just did not attend

services and this could be for three possible reasons: (a) they are not particularly religious and, therefore, do not attend services, or (b) there may have been a dance the previous night and having stayed out late they didn't attend this particular Sunday, or (c) there are no young, unattached people. This last, however, seems somewhat difficult to believe.

4. During the ABN rally the undersigned met with an old friend of his, one, Dennis PRYTULIAK. At one time, PRYTULIAK was a fanatic upholder of the revolutionary ideals to the point that he would have been willing to participate in any type of activity which would eventually lead to the independence of Ukraine. After 4 or 5 hours with him, however, the undersigned became convinced that the ravages of American capitalistic economy have had their effects on this young man. He is now far more tempered, far less fanatic, and quite satisfied, in a dissatisfied sort of way, with his status quo. He is unhappy that as an intellectual he has to work at physical tasks, but it would appear that the money he earns is sufficient to keep him moderately satisfied. In the ideal, he supports his former theories, providing someone else does the dirty work. This is brought out in order to point out that many of the young individuals who a short two or three years ago would have been willing to lay down their lives for their cause, are now more interested in their physical well being since they have tasted American living. PRYTULIAK is apparently close to the center of ABN activity. He assured the undersigned that the ABN is financed by itself and not by any external factors. He also mentioned that "two influential Americans" had gone to Canada in an attempt to bring STETSKO to the U.S. but they were not successful. The undersigned was unable to elicit any real information from this man, either because PRYTULIAK did not know or because he did not wish to disclose any information. The undersigned believes that the cause for this was the former.

COMMENTS

- A. The ZCHOUN has a wealth of operational assets, at least in New York City and surrounding areas.
- B. These assets cannot be utilized by us until there is some sort of political and operational rapprochement between ZCHOUN and ZRUHVR.
- C. It is possible that current type personnel from eastern oblasts may be more difficult to procure than originally anticipated.
- D. Mykola SYDOR is a potential well of political information and should, therefore, be cultivated.